

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by marked up replacement paragraph(s) as follows.

Please replace paragraph [06] with the following:

--These and other needs are addressed by the present invention in which an approach is provided for directly terminating local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP) calls. It is recognized that many carrier networks support direct termination of calls to their customers using Dedicated Access Lines (DALs). However, only a fraction of the traffic originating from DALs terminate down DALs, in that a dial plan needs to be set up for the call originator. Further, conventionally, there exists no mechanism for routing Local Number Portability (LNP) calls, which constitute a large volume of calls placed by customers, using these DAL services; this is so because LNP to DAL translation does not exist. It is recognized that service providers (e.g., interexchange carriers) conventionally utilize standardized Local Routing Number (LRN) processing to route LNP calls, which strictly terminate over a local exchange carrier (LEC) network. Rather than route traffic through the LEC, an approach is provided to utilize a call processor (e.g., service control point (SCP)) for performing LNP translations to direct a switch to route such calls directly from the switch to the termination -- for customers that have direct access to the interexchange carrier ("long-distance") network. If the direct termination (e.g., Dedicated Access Line (DAL), a wireless communication channel, an Internet Protocol (IP) connection -- e.g., a Voice over IP session, or a cable communication channel) is unavailable, then the call processor can instruct the switch to perform overflow routing of the call to the LEC, as is the result of the standard LRN processing. It is noted that the alternative routes can be iteratively attempted, resulting in the overflow route to the LEC if these alternative routes are unavailable. The above approach advantageously reduces or eliminates local access fees. Also,

the number of circuits to the LEC could be reduced if more of the traffic were routed from the long-distance switch directly to the customer, resulting in cost savings for the customer and greater efficiency for the service provider. In addition, the network can better utilize the existing DALs.--

Please replace paragraph [07] with the following:

--In one aspect of the present invention, a method of processing a call is disclosed. The method includes receiving a query from a switch for an instruction for terminating the call. The method also includes determining whether the call is a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP) call. The method further includes, if the call is a LNP call, selectively instructing, in response to the query, the switch to terminate the call without incurring a local access charge for the call assessable by a local carrier capable of terminating the call.--